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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

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PACIFIC FLYWAY PROJECT

On Thursday, January 11, 1990, Lynn Stenzel, researcher at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) will discuss the Pacific Flyway Project. The project was initiated by PRBO to determine the current status and future prospects of shorebirds using Pacific Flyway wetlands.

Although PRBO staff organize the shorebird censuses that are currently being conducted as part of this project, the counts are conducted largely by volunteer observers. In California, over 500 volunteer observers have taken part in large census efforts that have encompassed all coastal and many interior wetlands in California. Bay Area Audubon Society chapters, particularly GGAS, have played a key role in the project.

During the first four complete shorebird censuses of San Francisco Bay, conducted in spring and fall of 1988 and 1989, counters documented that well over one million shorebirds use the San Francisco Bay ecosystem every year. The results of these censuses have led to the nomination of San Francisco Bay as a site of hemispheric importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Ms. Stenzel writes that, "each year millions of shorebirds—avocets, stilts, plovers, sandpipers, and phalaropes—migrate between arctic, subarctic, Great Basin and Great Plains breeding grounds and their wintering areas along the southeastern and western

(continued on page 2)

RARE BIRD ALERT CHANGES

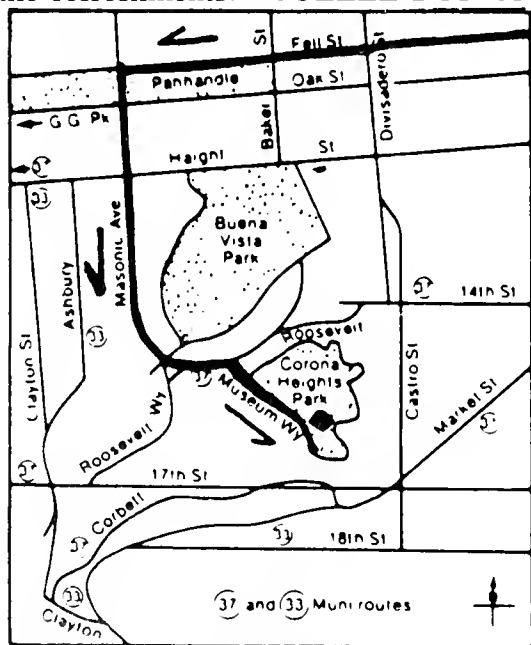
In recent weeks we have made some changes in the Northern California Bird Alert which we think will improve the service. Our old answering machine finally died and it was no longer possible to get parts. We have replaced it with a much more reliable machine. However, commercial grade machines are expensive. We provide this service at no cost to members and non-members from a wide area and receive an average of over 500 calls per week not including daily updates. We ask that if you use this service and find it helpful,

(continued on page 2)

YOSEMITE ACTION ALERT

If you didn't write some letters last fall in response to **Yosemite at Risk** (see p. 119, *The GULL* for September) the issues are now urgent. See p. 8)

FLYWAY... *cont'd. from pg. 1*
coasts of the United States, Central and South America. These migrations are accomplished with necessary feeding stops along a chain of wetlands which comprise traditional layover sites between breeding and wintering areas. (Other studies) suggest that shorebirds have decreased in abundance in the eastern North American flyway during the past decade." Until the Pacific Flyway Project was initiated, no comparable data have been obtained for the Pacific Flyway, despite increasing evidence of the impact of pollution and wetland loss. Ms. Stenzel's slide-illustrated talk will discuss the Project and highlight some of the findings made thus far. The January 11 program will be in **San Francisco** at the **Josephine Randall Jr. Museum** located at **199 Museum Way** (see map for location of the Museum). The program begins at 7:30 p.m.; Admission is free and so are the refreshments. —JOELLE BUFFA



RARE BIRD... *cont'd from pg 1*
that you help pay for the cost of running it and for the new equipment. Please send tax deductible contributions in any amount to GGAS, 1250 Addison Street #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. We hope to be able to continue providing this service without charge, but that depends on voluntary support from you. Please write "RBA fund" on your check.

In addition we have started a pilot program in conjunction with the Winners' Circle computer Bulletin Board Service (BBS). If you have a computer with a modem, you may download the text of the weekly summary. The file name is RBAnnnn.TXT where nnnn is the month and date in numerical format. E.g. the text for November 28, 1989 is RBA1128.TXT. The text scripts are in the public domain and you are welcome to place them on other BBS's if you wish. An advantage is that you can print out the text and take it with you when you go birding. You do not have to call back several times or transcribe the directions to a rare bird from a tape recording. Another advantage is speed. At 2400 baud you can download an entire 7 minute text in about 30 seconds. Thus there can be a substantial saving for you in long distance telephone charges as well. As always we welcome suggestions, and please remember to phone in your own observations!

—JOE MORLAN

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, Jan. 6—Stockton/Lodi and Thornton.

Sunday, Jan. 7—Dillon Beach. For details on the above, see *The Gull* for December.

Wednesday, January 10—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy. 880 (Nimitz) to the Hegenberger exit. Drive west to Dolittle and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right onto Swan. Turn left after about a block and follow the signs to the marsh. Park in the second parking lot on the left. We will look for burrowing owls and waterfowl. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Sunday, Jan. 15—Grizzley and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Take I-80 north to Fairfield, and then the West Texas St. exit for about one-half mile to the City Park. Meet at the parking lot near the entrance at 8:30 a.m. We will caravan from there to the refuge. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds. Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Peter Allen (829-8063). (✓)

Saturday, January 20—Carrizo Plain. Meet at 8 a.m. in the town of Cholame (on Hwy. 46 midway between Kettleman City on I-5 and Paso Robles on Hwy. 101. Lodging is available in both cities). From the Bay Area drive south on I-5 to Kettleman City, then west for 28 miles on Hwy. 41 to the intersection of Hwy. 46. Continue west on 46 to Cholame. Or, from the Bay Area drive south on Hwy. 101 to Paso Robles, then east for 24 miles on Hwy. 46 to Cholame. Driving time is four and one-half to five hours, so we suggest you plan to arrive Friday evening to be ready for a full day of birding on Saturday.

Bring a lunch, liquids, warm clothes,

and perhaps a scope. We will caravan from Cholame to Carrizo Plain. This area is excellent for a wide variety of raptors, and Mountain Plovers, Longspurs, and Sandhill Cranes are usually seen. Not only will we see birds, but we will also learn about the geology of the area from Eben McMillan, the leader and a lifelong resident rancher. The San Andreas Fault is very much in evidence (hopefully not too much) and is an outstanding feature here. Much of the area has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy to establish a refuge.

Considering the length of the drive and the possibility of adverse weather conditions, it is possible that this trip will be cancelled at the last minute. It will also be called off if there is an insufficient number of participants. It is therefore important that you notify the GGAS office (843-2222) if you plan to participate. Leave your name, number in your party, and a phone number where you can be reached. Leader: Eben McMillan. (✓)

Sunday, Feb. 11—Lake Merritt, Oakland. Meet at 9 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade. Bring binoculars, scope, and field guide if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. Trip ends at noon. There is a restaurant at the lake for brunch after birding. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Joan Zawaski (433-1700 days, 530-2427 eve.) (✓)

Wednesday, Feb. 14—Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir. Take Hwy. 24 beyond Orinda to the Acalanes exit, continue 3/4 mile on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and follow the sign on the right to the reservoir. Meet at 9 a.m. There is a \$1.00 fee for day parking. We will see song and winter birds. Lunch optional.

Rain cancels. Leader: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$

Saturday, Feb 17—Panoche Valley. Leader: Chris Carpenter. See next issue of *The GULL* for details.

Sunday, Feb. 18—Los Banos State Refuge. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White. See next issue of *The GULL* for details.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance or parking fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

FIELD TRIP TO DAVIS

The GGAS field trip to the UC Raptor Rehabilitation Center was well attended (35 enthusiastic birders) and participants were well rewarded, both at the center and the following foray into the area south of the campus. The latter was led by Davis Audubon member Terry Colborn. The group saw Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks, Burrowing and Short-eared Owls, waterbirds and mammals.

The UCRRC program emphasizes rehabilitation and release of raptors and the study of avian diseases. Those birds not able to survive in the wild, perhaps because of an amputation, are termed "ambassadors" and are taken to classrooms and other public appearances to spread understanding and appreciation of raptors.

OBSERVATIONS

October 27 through November 28

Thanksgiving weekend brought rain and cold weather to the Bay Area, ending a long, dry, mild Indian summer

and lots of fair-weather birding. On SE Farallon Island auklets and cormorants reappeared, and gulls came back to their territories. All SE Farallon Island information is courtesy Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO).

Tubenoses

All tubenoses were reported by land-based birders this month, and most were seen by observers at Pigeon Point. Northern Fulmars were noted from there as follows: one Nov. 10 (ASH); seven Nov. 15 (PJM); one Nov. 19 (JiD), four Nov. 20 (PJM). Twenty Buller's, a few Sooty, one Short-tailed, and one to two Black-vented Shearwaters were seen from Pigeon Pt. Nov. 10 (ASH). Fifty-seven Sooty's and 185 Black-vented Shearwaters were found there on a two and one-half hour sea watch Nov. 15 (PJM), and numerous other sightings of Black-vented Shearwaters were seen along the San Mateo Coast in November (mob).

Egrets through Raptors

Cattle Egrets returned to our area beginning in late October. Of eight reports the largest group was five at Pt Reyes along the road to the Lighthouse Nov. 22 (JoMc). Signs of winter were a lone Tundra Swan flying north along the bay in Redwood City Nov. 19 (DKe), and Snow Geese: one immature at Bay Front Park, Menlo Park Nov. 4-5 (AMo), one at Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 4 (CL), one at North Lake, Golden Gate Park Nov. 8-15 (HF, DPM), and two flying south past Pigeon Pt. Nov. 15 (PJM).

A female Tufted Duck was discovered near Arm Springs, Alameda Co., Nov. 17 (LRF). The male **King Eider** remained in Drake's Bay near the New Willows at least through Nov. 19 (GF, mob, DSg). The Volunteer Canyon male Harlequin Duck returned to his post in mid November (JM, mob). This

bird was present all last winter and through the summer, at least to Aug. 17. Another Harlequin Duck was at Candlestick Pt. Nov. 18 (JMcC), and a male was at Coyote Pt. Nov. 18 (PLN, RG). A female Harlequin was near Hog Island, Tomales Bay, along with two Oldsquaws Nov. 19 (seen from boat, DWm). Another Oldsquaw was found at Princeton Harbor Nov. 20 (PJM). The first Barrow's Goldeneyes noted this fall were four at Lake Merritt Nov. 6 (PGr), building up to as many as thirty by Nov. 26 (RSc). This has been a reliable spot to view these beautiful ducks each winter.

Hill 129 at the Marin Headlands continued to report migrating hawks: two Bald Eagles, two additional Broad-winged Hawks and two Rough-legged Hawks zipped through in late October and early November (KM).

Shorebirds

Small flocks of up to ten Lesser Golden-Plovers continued to be seen at Spaletta Plateau through Nov. 11, and at Spaletta Slop Ponds through Nov. 4 (mob); and one was in the fields at Abbott's Lagoon Oct. 28 (GFi). A Mountain Plover was found at RCA Station, Pt. Reyes Nov. 3 (BiL). Late Pectoral Sandpipers were one at Horseshoe Pond, Pt. Reyes Oct. 29 (RMS), and one at Lodi Sewage Ponds Nov. 21 (JMR). One to two Rock Sandpipers returned to the Princeton Harbor Jetty and were seen Nov. 11-17 (FrT, DEQ, LC). Another was discovered at Pebble Beach Nov. 26 (JM). A Ruff visited Hayward Shoreline Nov. 5 (RJR).

Small numbers of Pomarine Jaegers were seen from Pigeon Pt. during November: "lots" were reported Nov. 10-11 (SH, MLR), "several" Nov. 19 (JiD), and two Nov. 23 (thank you, PJM). One Parasitic was there Nov. 15 (PJM), and four to five were present

Nov. 19 (JiD). An immature Franklin's Gull reached Stockton Sewage Ponds Nov. 22 (DGY). A Little Gull at Stockton Sewage Ponds Nov. 21 (JMR) is presumed to be the same bird which has wintered there for several years. A Glaucous Gull was found along the American River west of Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Sacramento Co. Nov. 18 (JML).

Sea watchers at Pigeon Pt. noted Marbled Murrelets through the period with as many as nineteen there Nov. 15 (PJM). "Some" were seen off Bodega Head Nov. 16 (JMR). It seems especially important to keep track of these small alcids whose breeding habitat in the old growth forests is being severely jeopardized. Ancient Murrelets were also seen from Pigeon Pt. Nov. 12-23, with five present Nov. 19 (JiD). Four were spotted off Bodega Head Nov. 16 (JMR).

Landbirds

A Long-eared Owl hid in the New Willows Nov. 5 (MH), and a Short-eared Owl visited Home Bay, Pt. Reyes Nov. 19 (DSg). Two Short-eared Owls were on SE Farallon Island Nov. 5.

The identification of a male sapsucker at Pine Gulch Creek Nov. 12-26 was a little tricky, but finally Yellow-bellied was agreed upon by most observers (JM, LSi, RMS, mob). **Three** Eastern Phoebes reached SE Farallon in November, and one was along Cloverdale Road in San Mateo Co. Nov. 11-12 (MLR, DEQ, RSTh). A Tropical Kingbird graced Road Forks Pool, Pt. Reyes Nov. 2 (DWm, mob), and another was near milepost 34.2 at Pt. Reyes Nov. 11 (JW).

A **Red-Flanked Bluetail** was photographed and banded on SE Farallon Nov. 1! This asiatic traveler is the first of its kind recorded in North America south of Alaska. It was wearing brown plumage with blue tail and orange

flanks ("tails and decorations"?). The first fall/winter Mountain Bluebird to reach our area was discovered at hill 129 Nov. 3 (CLF). By the end of the period up to one hundred fifty were being seen in the Panoche Valley area (DSg). **Thirteen** Sage Thrashers were found along an access road off Little Panoche Road Nov. 24 (SA, *fide* DSg). A single Sage Thrasher was in Alameda Co. along Patterson Pass Road Nov. 27 (GFi). The Lodi Bendire's Thrasher remained at 333 Jahant Road through the period (DGY, JMS, JMR).

Vagrant Warblers

A third warbler chart each fall seems excessive, but, again, the number of late records requires special treatment. Thirty-eight additional individuals of 8 species bring the fall totals to 395 individuals of 22 species.

Tennessee Warbler (total 2; 26-27 for fall)

1 S.F. residence	Oct. 29	CSp
1 Pt. Reyes-Nunes	Nov. 2	Dwm, mob

Black-throated Green Warbler (total 1; 2 for fall)

1 SE Farallon	Nov. 2	PRBO
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Yellow-throated Warbler (total 1)

1 Leone Meadows Camp, El Dorado Co.	Oct. 28	HMR
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Palm Warbler (total 25; 156 for fall)

9 SE Farallon	Oct. 28- Nov. 24	PRBO
5 Pt. Reyes	Oct. 25- Nov. 2	mob
3 Marin Headlands	Nov. 3 (2); Nov. 6	KM,CLF
1 Pine Gulch Cr. San Mateo Co.	Nov. 4	MLa,JM, RMS
2 Pescadero Marsh	Oct. 29	AME
1 Crystal Spgs Res.	Nov. 8	DKe
1 Cloverdale Rd.	Nov. 12	RSTh
2 Pigeon Pt.	Nov. 15-20	PJM, RSTh
1 Pescadero Rd.	Nov. 19	JE

Black-and-white Warbler (total 4; 13 for fall)

1 San Gregorio Rd.	Oct. 29	RSTh
1 Stinson Beach SP	Nov. 1-12	SU,DN, JM

1 Pine Gulch Cr.	Nov. 17-26	SCx,DSg, RMS
1 Andrew Molera SP	Nov. 19	RMrr
American Redstart (total 2; 59 for fall)		
1 Marin Headlands	Oct. 28	CLF
1 S.F.-G. Gate Park	Nov. 27	RKo
Worm-eating Warbler (total 1)		
1 Pt. Reyes-Drake's Beach	Nov. 4	JM,GHg
Canada Warbler (total 2; 5 for fall)		
2 Walden Ct. Fremont	Nov. 14	MNo,ALH

Dickcissel through Rusty Blackbird

A Dickcissel amazed observers at Andrew Molera State Park Nov. 16-19 (DEG, *fide* RFT, RMrr). Three American Tree Sparrows migrated through our area: two at SE Farallon Oct. 28 and Nov. 1, and one at Nunes Ranch Nov. 2 (DWm). Up to ten Clay-colored Sparrows were discovered during the period: four at SE Farallon, another five throughout San Mateo Co. and one in Sebastopol Oct. 29 (DN). Quite surprising was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Alameda Co. where they are considered casual in winter. This one was at Alameda South Shore Nov. 12-13 (LRF, DWo). another "new" spot for this species was Redwood Shores Sewage Plant where one was discovered Nov. 16 (BS, *fide* RSTh). An immature Harris' Sparrow was at a residence south of Napa along Las Amigas Road Nov. 12-24 (Dei, MBG, WT).

One Lapland Longspur was joined by another in the fields at Hayward Regional Shoreline Park Oct. 28-Nov. 16 (MCM, RJR, AWi). One Lapland Longspur was at Drake's Corners, Pt. Reyes Oct. 28 (ALE), another Lapland was near Tunitas Creek, Half Moon Bay Nov. 4 (MFe, *fide* RSTh), and two were found at Pigeon Pt. Nov. 19 (JiD). A Snow Bunting turned up at Tunitas Creek south of Half Moon Bay Nov. 3-5 (RSTh, BS). Another Snow Bunting reached SE Farallon Nov. 15. A Rusty Blackbird was found at Pine

Gulch Creek Oct. 28 (KH), and one arrived at SE Farallon Nov. 7.

Observers: Steve Allison, Jan Andersen, Dick Ashford (DAsh), Larry Campbell, Scott Cox (SCx), Jim Danzenbaker (JiD), Mr. Deibert, Joe Eaton, Art L. Edwards, Al M. Eisner, Carter L. Faust, Leora R. Feeney, Marc Fenner (Mfe), George Finger (GFi), Shawneen E. Finnegan, H. Fraser, Doug E. George, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Ron Gil, Philip E. Gordon, Phil Greer (PGr), Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen, Mark Headney, Alice Hoch (Alh), Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg (GHg), Dan Keller (DKe), Richard Kovak (RKO), Jeri M. Langham, Michael Larkin (MLa), Bill Lenarz (BiL), Cindy Lieurance, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, John McConnell (JoMc), John McCormick (JMcC), Roger V. Merrill (RMrr), Kevin Metcalf, Peter J. Metropulos, (DKe), Mark C. Miller, Ann Moeser (AMo), Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrical (SMo), Daniel P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, Paul L. Noble, Mary Nordston, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (thanks to Phil Henderson), Lina J. Prairie, Dave E. Quady, Harold M. Reeve, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Saupe, Rusty Scalf (RSc), Larry Silver (LSi), Dan Singer (DSg), Jean-Marie Spoelman, Chris Spooner (CSp), Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Ken Taylor, Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), Robert F. Tinkle, Francis Toldi (FrT), W. Tordoff, Sandy Upson, Anna Wilcox (AWi), David Wimpfheimer (DWm), Jon Winter, Dennis Wolff (DWo), David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor

2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

The Common Flicker is a novice bird watchers' dream. It can't be confused with any other bird, even when the light is bad, and it will generally co-operate (very unbird-like) until you've had a good look!

Until recently there were three separate listings for flickers: red-shafted, yellow-shafted and gilded. It was found that where the ranges of these birds overlapped, they interbreed frequently, producing hybrids. Now they are lumped together as one species with 3 races or suspecies. The Yellow-shafted nests further north than any woodpecker except the Three-toed, and is found east of the Rocky Mts. The bird has the same general markings we will describe below except it has a black "mustache", a red crescent on its nape and yellow under its wings and tail. The Gilded is found mainly in the deserts of the S.W., is slightly smaller, and wears a lighter breast, a red mustache and gilt underparts.

"Our" flicker is the Red-shafted race, a large (12-14" long) bird which sports a black crescent "bib" across its light brown breast. Its brown back and wings are barred with black and it has numerous round black spots on the sides of its breast. Its grey face wears a red mustache and it shows salmon-red underparts.

Flickers, unlike humans, enjoy ants at their picnics, ants making up 45% of their diets. Consuming insects and grubs, nearly 3/4 of their diets is animal, the rest being wild berries and fruit. They will enjoy suet and peanut butter from your home feeder. Much of their feeding time is spent on the ground, probing for food with their long beaks and using long, extensible, sticky tongues to snag yummy bugs. When startled from the ground, the bird flashes the white mark on its rump and

makes a loud whirring sound with its strong wings. This is probably a strategy developed to startle enemies. Its undulating flight then becomes obvious; it swoops and glides with its wings tight to its body between wing flaps. Flickers will perch on tree tops or on power lines as well as sidling up a tree trunk, woodpecker-like.

No one is sure where the colloquial name, Flicker, comes from. It might arise from the act of striking quickly (with its bill), from the verb to flick. At least 132 common names are recorded for this one woodpecker! "Wick-up", e.g., comes most probably from the birds "hic-cup" call. Actually it utters several unique sounds. In the spring mating season its notes are YUCK-a, YUCK-a! (Try THAT in a crowded room!) Another common call is a loud TEE-YER, TEE-YER (some write it KEE-YER, KEE-YER)!

Flickers are quite common in sparsely-wooded country, areas with open ground for feeding. The bird seems happy near human dwellings, drilling holes in utility poles and fences or using nest boxes when a dead tree is unavailable. The male chooses the nest site where he and the female take turns incubating the 5-10 eggs for 2 weeks. The adults regurgitate food in the hungry young's mouths for 25-28 days before the young fledge.

They may be common (they are with us all year long), but even the most unobservant person cannot help but admire this large, very handsome bird.

—MEG PAULETICH

"The restlessness of shorebirds, their kinship with the distance and swift seasons, the wistful signal of their voices down the long coastlines of the world make them, for me, the most affecting of wild creatures."

—PETER MATHIESSEN

YOSEMITE ACTION ALERT

Music Corporation of America (MCA) and its subsidiary, Yosemite Park and Curry Co., are funding a huge campaign to trash the 1980 National Park Service Plan for Yosemite. Using the term "special interest" with scorn as a smear of environmentalist and conservationist opinion, the corporation hopes to enlist its "customers" in a campaign of letter writing in opposition to the 1980 General Management Plan. (GMP) This mis-use of language is typical of their methods: historically, the "special interests" were the monopolists, the trusts, the cartels, the powerful economic forces that were price-setting, rebating, bribing and subverting public institutions. Now they try to tell us the citizens are "special interests".

The important elements of the plan that deserve mention are:

- **Relocate Non-essential Employees**

Remove and relocate 68% of staff housing and relocate all non-essential employees.

- **Restrict Cars**

Reduce the number of autos and start work on the total elimination of the personal car in the valley.

- **Reduce Overnight Accommodations**

Immediately reduce overnight lodging in the valley by 17% and prohibit new development of hotels in Yosemite Valley.

Please write to the Park Service telling them that you are outraged at their plans to weaken the GMP. Send your comments by Jan. 5, 1990, if possible, but send them. Write to:

Mr. Stanley Albright, Director
Western Region, National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 556-5750

Also, please write to California's two Senators, and to your Representative in Congress. The urbanization and congestion of the lovely Yosemite Valley must be curbed!

WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT

BAY TIDINGS, a newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, reports that George Gianulias was recently found guilty of a misdemeanor as a result of the first criminal prosecution undertaken for violating the McAteer-Petris Act. The Solano County District Attorney successfully prosecuted the case, which involved the unauthorized filling of tidal areas of White Slough, in and near Vallejo. Sentencing had not yet occurred. In related actions, Mr. Gianulias was also recently found guilty of three counts of contempt of court by Solano County Superior Court for violating its preliminary injunction by filling in the same area and was sentenced to fifteen days in jail and \$3,000 in fines. In 1987 he was found guilty of eight counts of contempt for violating the court order and sentenced to forty days in jail and \$8,000 in fines (all but five days and \$2,000 of which was suspended if no further violations were found).

The same George Gianulias and his company were found guilty by the Napa County Superior Court of filling tidal areas of White Slough south of the above noted case a few years ago. This action resulted in total fines of \$1,500 and five days in jail as a result of the case itself and contempt of court charges (although the jail term and \$500 of the fines were suspended if no further violations at this site were found). The Attorney General's Office is expected to go back to court to seek removal of all unauthorized fill at this site.

Editor's Note: It is a pity that jurisdictional lines keep courts from considering violations in adjacent counties. It is also striking that behavior like

Gianulias' is rewarded with suspended sentences. It behooves us to watch these developments closely and remind our legislators of inadequacies in environmental law and its enforcement.

HABITAT RESTORATION

A team effort at care for precious natural resources has been organized and operating every weekend since summer. The National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Park Association are jointly sponsoring the project and seek your help. Find out about next Sunday's planned tasks by calling the hot line at 556-4353.

The meeting time is 9:30 a.m. every Sunday during the year with a break in late December and early January. The group operates on a drop-in basis, open to anyone in good health and spirits. If you sign up you will receive a newsletter listing future activities and a map of meeting locations. Bring sturdy clothes, work gloves, a lunch and something refreshing to drink.

Potential volunteers can obtain more information by phoning Greg Archibald during office hours at 556-0693 or evenings and Saturdays at 388-3106.

SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Evening bird classes taught by **Joe Morlan** will be starting Jan. 23, 24 and 25. All classes meet 7-9:30 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of California* and compiler of the recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert" sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes and the text for all classes is *Field Guide to*

the Birds of North America by the National Geographic Society.

- **Field Ornithology I** meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology and behavior. Part A starts Jan. 23 and ends Mar. 13. Part B starts Mar. 27 and ends May 15.

- **Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American birds, including gamebirds, pigeons and owls. Part A starts Jan. 24 and ends Mar. 13. Part B starts Mar. 28 and ends May 16.

- **Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of land birds including sparrows, blackbirds, orioles, tanagers and finches. Part A starts Jan. 25 and ends Mar. 15. Part B starts Mar. 29 and ends May 17.

These classes are endorsed by the GGAS. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

Fees are \$50 for Part A (eight week) courses and \$45 for Part B (seven week) courses. Students need not take Part A to enroll in Part B classes. Pre-registration is recommended. For information call the San Francisco Community College, Community Services Office at 776-8247.

BIRDING CLASSES: ALVISO

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has announced the season's birding classes and tours. Information can be obtained by writing P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002 or by phoning (408) 946-6548.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory, an organization familiar to readers of *The GULL* and known and respected for its work, is conducting its annual membership drive. It provides a very interesting series of classes and programs, a handsome quarterly newsletter, and serious research efforts; the observatory deserves support.

Palomarin, headquarters for PRBO's education program, is at the southern end of the Point Reyes National Seashore, and is the center for PRBO's landbird research focusing on a long-term banding program and a major study of avian ecology of the coastal scrub habitat. Visitors are welcome at any time and can observe birds in hand Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings from Thanksgiving through March, weather permitting. From April 1 through Thanksgiving this activity is available every morning.

Memberships are: family \$50, regular \$35, student and senior \$15, and of course larger annual amounts are most welcome. Send your check to PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970. The telephone number is 868-1221.

MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor a boat trip on Sunday, March 4th to view seabirds and marine mammals. We plan a 7:30 a.m. departure from Monterey Harbor. Past trips have produced sightings of albatross, shearwaters, jaegers, alcids, dolphin, whales and other species not usually seen from land.

Reservations may be made by sending \$26 per person to 1250 Addison Street #107B, Berkeley, California 94702. Make checks payable to GGAS and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Details on when and where to meet will be mailed with confirmation notices.

For more information call GGAS office at 843-2222.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bay Area Bird Photographers will meet as usual at Baylands: Jan. 3 and Feb. 7. The meetings are at 7:30 p.m. Information about the organization can be had by writing them at BABP, 1019 Loma Prieta Ct., Los Altos, CA 94024

The January subject is Brazil with Pete LaTourrette and February will be Tim Davis and Renee Lynn on an African trip.

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

The 10th Annual River Conference will be at Dominican College in San Rafael, CA, March 16-18. An invitation to this rendezvous for the river community may be obtained by calling Meryl Storm at (415) 771-0400 or by writing Friends of the River, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123.

IS GGAS LUCKY?

No! GGAS is not lucky in having an unusually large environmentally concerned representation in our State and Federal legislatures. It is not luck, but the result of a large, informed electorate which returns to office people who are responsive to its wishes on these issues. It is important to remember these people and their current efforts. Here is a short list.

Rep. **Nancy Pelosi**, following in the

footsteps of Phil and Sala Burton, her predecessors, has introduced two bills of importance. One would establish a federal response program for oil spills that is wildlife specific, and thus unique. The second provides that the World Bank must require an environmental impact study for any development it funds. The World Bank has funded environmental disasters in the name of development, cutting forests and building dams.

Rep. **Barbara Boxer** has been, for years, leading the fight against off-shore oil-drilling. She has been an able ally in the fight for wetlands, and got Congress to appropriate \$3 million to purchase Cullinan Ranch, 1700 acres of North Bay seasonal wetlands. Barbara has also led the fight to rid the Fish and Wildlife Service of employees who put politics ahead of the environment (see "The Mouse That Roared", p. 156.)

Rep. **George Miller**, another stalwart, has focused on California's water problems to be sure that solutions protect our natural resources, particularly San Francisco Bay and Estuary.

Rep. **Ron Dellums**, long an environmentalist, and recipient of the GGAS conservation award in 1979, has a 100% approval rating for voting on issues of environmental importance. He is part of a coalition that will be bringing to the Congress in January a bill to confront aspects of the global warming threat. As chairman of the subcommittee on military base construction, he was influential in promoting use of solar energy applications in military housing, and advanced technological solutions to vapor and fluid recovery systems and handling toxic substances at air bases.

In the State legislature, Assemblyman **Bob Campbell**, author of the En-

dangered Species Act, has been a consistent friend. He continually monitors the State Fish and Game Commission's compliance with the law. Unfortunately, this monitoring is needed in view of the Commission's tendency to evade, avoid or re-define its responsibilities.

Assemblyman **Tom Bates'** consistency should be well known to us all. He has recently pushed legislation to require the Water Quality Control Board (whose mandate is to protect the purity of the Bay and other bodies of water) to make unannounced inspections of oil refineries, chemical plants, and others that discharge water into the Bay. Current rules require notice of inspections, which vitiates the inspection program.

Senator **Nick Petris**, who co-authored the bill that created the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission and Senator **Milton Marks**, who was helpful in resolving the gill-net issue, are both dependable on environmental issues.

Of course, our area also has politicians who have not yet recognized that a healthy environment is good politics. Let us hope they learn or that we replace them. It is also of value to remind our stalwarts of our appreciation. Letters count!

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A recent note in Los Angeles Audubon's *WESTERN TANAGER* contains a warning of interest. An attorney phoned the LA Audubon office to tell them of a large bequest in the estate of a recently deceased member. However on examination of the will it developed that National Audubon was named, though the attorney felt that in fact the decedent meant the local group.

"While we are happy", writes the *WESTERN TANAGER*, "to see a large

sum given for conservation to any organization, we feel it important to point out the ease with which a mistake can be made, particularly by an attorney who is not familiar with environmental organizations with similar names."

As their note continues, we urge our membership to consider bequests to environmental organizations, and particularly to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., but strongly recommend that the wording be carefully checked to make sure the money goes to the right place.

FROM PETER BERLE:

"Think big. Challenge the system. Fight for what you believe in." These fighting words were uttered by John Turner, the new director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in September, at the National Audubon Society Convention.

Coming from a public official, those words are refreshing and should give us all hope that a new wind is blowing in our nation's capital. We will need our government's support—engendered by a renewed commitment on our end—if we are to fight effectively against an increasingly virulent anti-environment campaign by some narrow-minded interests (see page 8, "Yosemite") on several specific environmental issues.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH Matching Gifts

Long time Ranch friend and benefactor Eleanor Crum has recently given the ACR endowment a gift of as much as \$25,000. Her gift depends on you. For every dollar you donate to ACR, Eleanor will match it, dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$25,000. Help us raise \$50,000 for the ACR endowment drive. When you donate to the endowment to

fund please write "matching gift" on the memo line of your check. Thank you Eleanor for your generosity, and thank you friends of ACR for your generosity as you match her gift.

Estate Planning Seminar

Selling appreciated stock or real estate in a way that decreases your taxes, increases your income, provides for your heirs and helps a good cause will be among the topics treated at "Living Trusts: Tax and Estate Planning for the Nineties," a 10 a.m. to noon estate planning seminar sponsored by ACR. Select one of three Saturday presentations: Feb. 3, at Volunteer Canyon; Feb. 17, at the Marin Art and Garden Center; and March 3, at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve.

Topics will include living trusts, avoiding probate, life support systems and your legal rights, serving as your own trustee, choosing a trustee, and the tax and income benefits of charitable trusts.

Speaking will be estate planning

attorney Carolyn M. Farren, professional trust manager Jack Harper, and charitable trust consultant to ACR Philip Murphy.

There is no charge to attend the seminar but reservations are appreciated. To make them call (415) 868-9244.

Ranch Guides Training

ACR is such a special place because so many visitors leave with the feeling they have been enriched and learned from their visit. Ranch Guides have become an integral important part of that process. Join us in continuing this exemplary environmental education program. Training for weekend guides begins on Feb. 10 and runs through March 24. Ranch naturalist Ray Peterson will prepare you to meet our weekend visitors at the overlook, over the marsh or by the pond. Be a Ranch Guide. For more details call Ray Peterson at (415) 868-9244.

—DAN MURPHY

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

Gift of

Clyde E. Weigand

FOR RARE BIRD ALERT

Edward Greaves

Marguerite Gross

Robin Leong

Dan Singer

Chris Spooner

Francis Toldi

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

HELP!

Start the new decade right—join GGAS as a volunteer! Our 1990 wish list includes several important niches for our members to fill. We need members interested in providing hospitality and refreshments for our Berkeley general meetings. This is a commitment of 4 or 5 evenings a year plus any time spent preparing or securing goodies. Actually, a small committee would be ideal to perform these tasks.

Next, we need people who would enjoy greeting the public in general, rather than the select group who attend our meetings. GGAS often attends local fairs and public gatherings to provide information about our activities and current environmental concerns. We have a travelling exhibit, but need a commitment from interested members to be available to help display it about four times a year. Our next date is the Chronicle Great Outdoors Fair in early March. The list continues with a plea for more volunteers for our Bird Seed Sales. The next one is January 27, rain or shine, at our Berkeley office and at Tom White's garage in San Francisco. We don't want to wear out our regulars, so some new strong backs would be most welcome. It's actually fun, swapping birding information and talking to old friends.

We hope you will consider some of these requests. The commitment is minimal, but would be of enormous benefit to the chapter. For more concrete descriptions and information, please call the office, 843-2222.

EAGLES

The telephone number for the Eagle Watch Tours at Lake San Antonio (South Shore) in Monterey Co. is (408) 755-4899. This is a good family outing.

JANUARY BIRD SEED SALE

As promised, GGAS brings you another seed sale. It benefits the conservation activities of the chapter, and brings you quality at a good price at the same time.

The feeders available will include the standard 16" Droll Yankee cylinder with tray, two sizes of hummingbird feeder, and a wire basket suet feeder. The sectional garden pole will also be available, for use with the Droll Yankee feeder.

We urge you to order and prepay to guarantee the type and quantity of seed you require. Again we will order extra quantities, but not in the 50 pound size.

Ordering Instructions

Please order by Jan. 15, making your check payable to GGAS. Orders will be available for pick-up in Berkeley and San Francisco. Confirmation will be sent the week prior to sale.

Pick-up Saturday, Jan. 27

Berkeley: GGAS Office 1250, Addison St., Room 107B—easy parking from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

San Francisco: 1414 Alabama St. in the Mission District between Army and 26th Sts. Again, we are at Tom White's garage; his phone number is 821-6933 if you need directions.

MORE EAGLES— Feb. 16–17–18

The "greatest gathering of Bald Eagles in the contiguous 48 states" is celebrated again this year. It is the eleventh meeting, sponsored by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society, at the Klamath Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, OR. Peter A. A. Berle, Audubon National president, will be keynote speaker. Write Charlotte Opp, 5873 Estate Dr., Klamath Falls, Or. 97603 for information, or call (503) 883-5732 (days).

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

ORDER AND PREPAY BY JAN. 15 / PICK UP ON SATURDAY, JAN. 27

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

☐ Berkeley ☐ San Francisco

SEED		QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX	20 lbs.	\$ 9.50	
	50 lbs.	\$19.00	
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20lbs.	\$ 9.00	
	50 lbs.	\$17.00	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs.	\$12.00	
	50 lbs.	\$25.00	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5lbs.	\$10.00	

FEEDERS

DROLL YANKEE 16"	\$25.00		
HUMMINGBIRD (large)	\$14.00		
HUMMINGBIRD (small)	\$12.00		
SUET CAGE	\$ 4.50		
FEEDER POLE (sectional)	\$13.50		

SUB-TOTAL

ADD TAX (7¼%)

TOTAL

CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS

TOTAL

Be sure to include
your check with a
stamped and self-
addressed envelope.

GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX: Top quality specially blended for us to meet the needs of Bay Area birds. It contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed. No waste seed. The presence of black oil sunflower seed attracts large numbers of desirable birds.

WESTERN WILD BIRD SEED: Mixed and packaged by Volkman, this mix is composed of only red and white millet—no sunflower seeds (no squirrels). It contains no low-cost fillers the birds will flick aside.

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED: It is high in oil content and nutritive value and appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice, jays, finches and many other species. This is the best all-around seed for attracting the largest number of desirable birds.

NIGER (THISTLE SEED): Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. it is a tiny seed, rich in oil, and is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard. Needs a thistle feeder.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Office: 843-2222
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Berkeley, California 94702

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THE GULL

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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288
Update: 524-5592**

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

**The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.**

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.